

CALCOIN NEWS



SUMMER, 1994

Volume 48, Number 3

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EDITORIAL

Dr. Regan G. Shea
CSNA R-5248

SHORT BUT SWEET

It is with sadness that I must announce my resignation as editor of this publication. I have taken on new responsibilities in my career as a chemist which will add travel and extra hours to my already jam-packed 60-70 hour per week routine.

When President Lange offered me the helm of *Calcoin News* in March, 1993, I warily accepted--only half knowing the demands it would make on my time and talents. It has turned out to be a very rewarding and enjoyable avocation. I really had no idea how long I might carry the torch, although I rather suspected I would be hard pressed to match the 17 years of the prior editor, Virginia Hall. I do intend to remain an active member of CSNA.

I am grateful to Dave and the CSNA members for entrusting to me this vital job. Of course I will work diligently to help my successor, Rus Stolling. I invite everyone to congratulate and thank him for volunteering.

This is Regan Shea...signing off....

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

DAVID W. LANGE
CSNA R-4304



For the second time this year my message to you is dominated by the ongoing crisis of the Old San Francisco Mint Museum. It seems that the worthiness of a cause is by itself not enough to see it through. This became apparent following a May 9 televised news segment which depicted the upgrading of The Granite Lady as a shameful waste of taxpayer money. Without relating the details of this hatchet job, I'll merely say that it was sufficient to cause the withdrawal of support for such funding within the U. S. Senate's Committee on Environment and Public Works. As this is the first way station on the road to final approval, the damage done was significant. Unless this attitude is reversed, the Old Mint will close permanently on or about August 6, as scheduled.

Many of you will have seen the appeal that I sent on behalf of our organization to its member clubs. This called for a letter writing campaign directed at the chairman of this Senate committee. Unless there is a breakthrough in our favor between the time that I write this message and the time that you receive it, you may assume that the need for such letters is urgent and ongoing. Therefore, I'll again ask that you write to the chairman in support of funding for the seismic and life safety upgrading of the Old Mint. His address is:

The Honorable Max Baucus, Chairman
Committee on Environment & Public Works
SD-456
Washington, DC 20510-6175

Another way to show your support is with a donation to Friends of the Mint. These funds will go toward the enhancement of the museum portion of the Old Mint. This museum should be quite an attraction for tourists and numismatists, since the loaning of exhibits has been tentatively approved by the Smithsonian Institution, Wells Fargo Bank and Bank of America. Of course, none of this will come to pass without a combination of federal and private funding. We can help the bureaucrats make up their minds by shaming them with our own donations. The CSNA board has already approved and transmitted a donation of \$250, and individual members are likewise encouraged to participate. The address to send your donations is:

Friends of the Mint
2007 Franklin Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

This fledgling group, of which I am a trustee, has not yet developed to the point of establishing membership categories. Still, all donors will receive a written

acknowledgment of their gift which has been determined to be tax deductible. As an added inducement, donors will also receive a wooden nickel featuring a vintage coin press of the type still in use at the Old Mint to strike medals. Let's hope that through our combined efforts, this little souvenir will not be simply a memento of a lost cause. Write today!

On another sad note, I have to report the resignation of *Calcoin News* editor Regan Shea, effective following the completion of this issue. It seems that Regan is as highly valued by his employer as he is by the CSNA. A promotion and increased job responsibilities, including frequent travel, have made it impossible to continue doing the first class job with our journal that he would like to do. Readers will know that it's not mere rhetoric when I say that he has been an outstanding editor and will be greatly missed.

Fortunately, this story has a happy ending. I am pleased to announce that Russell Stolling of Fresno has agreed to take over as editor of *Calcoin News*. Rus has only been collecting coins for two years, but in that time he has made quite an impact on the hobby. He joined the Fresno Numismatic Society in November, 1992 and by December, 1993 he was that organization's President. In addition to CSNA, he has also joined the American Numismatic Association, Pacific Coast Numismatic Society, Classical and Medieval Numismatic Society (Canada), American Israel Numismatic Association (NY), and Israel Numismatic Society (L.A.). If you read *Coin World* or *Numismatic News* during the past two years, you have no doubt seen the periodic editorial opinions and news contributions which Rus has made to those publications. His principal collecting interests are U.S. coins and Ancients, with a particular interest in coins of the Biblical New Testament period. Our new editor is married, has two children (with a third due before this issue is mailed), and makes a living as Assistant Vice President of Finance of Spencer Enterprises, Inc., a Fresno based construction company. Rus has previous experience as a news photographer and writer. Thus, he has had exposure to all of the artistic and mechanical aspects of publishing, and he states that he intends "to bring every talent I have to the job of editing the *Calcoin News*." Bravo, Mr. Stolling. And may you have a long and pleasant stint as editor.

Finally, there is some additional pleasant news to report. General Chairman Phil Iversen has the upcoming Golden State Coin Show and 94th CSNA Convention well in hand, and more information about it will be found elsewhere in this issue. I'll be there along with some other folks from the North, and I hope to see an even greater number of our members than have attended previous editions of this show. The freeways are all back in order, and Phil has promised that there will be no further earthquakes (his having had some personal experience in that area), so come on down!

.....

MEMORIAL EDUCATION FUND

The following donations have been received:

- Phil Iversen, in memory of his father
- Dorothy Bycroft, in memory of Elizabeth Wisslead
- Albert and Virginia Hall, in memory of Elizabeth Wisslead

Who's Who in Cal-State Numismatics



Joyce Kuntz
CSNA L-32-04

My origin and youth was in Alabama. After marrying a young Navy Cadet stationed in Pensacola, Florida, he ended his duty and we moved to his hometown in Long Beach, California. Over the next few years we had three sons.

Like your typical mother and homemaker I sent my sons to school each day and was involved in the usual school and church activities. As two of my sons grew older and would soon be leaving the next, my dreams of what I had wanted to be from the time I was a little girl could now be taken off the back burner. I would fulfill my ambitions and I would become a nurse. I disciplined myself and I studied. It was hard work after being away from

school for so many years. Then I became that nurse, and in my fifth year of my nursing career I specialized and became a phlebotomist. Over the next ten years I was employed at Claremont College Infirmary, Garfield Cottage Hospital, and San Antonio Community Hospital.

I left my medical career and married G. Lee in 1977. With G. Lee as my teacher I learned what coin collecting was all about. I collect early American coppers. I also collect paper money and U.S. type coins.

I enjoy attending coin conventions, meeting new friends, and socializing with old friends. I enjoy being a part of numismatics; two of the greatest people who have passed through my life were the late Elizabeth Wisslead and John Lenker.

My affiliations include the American Numismatic Association, Life Member #32-04 of CSNA, Sustaining Member #215 of the Numismatic Association of Southern California, a member of The Early American Coppers club, Upland Coin Club (serving as NASC Representative), and San Bernardino County Coin Club.

I currently serve as convention medals coordinator for CSNA, and I serve on the ANA Medals Committee for the Anaheim convention in 1995. I was both Co-General Chairman and Banquet Chairman for the 81st CSNA Convention in 1987. Hosting a CSNA luncheon was another enjoyable role.

Lee and I live very busy lives which include running our business, Masterpiece Medallions, baby-sitting our two grandsons, and our travels. We enjoy flying our airplane and traveling to places afar. We have now traveled to all seven continents, having just returned from Antarctica. My other hobbies include interior decorating, silk flower arranging, and gardening. I enjoy my family, my life, and my friends. My plans are to continue until the good Lord says slow down.

My thanks to Regan Shea for inviting me to share my life.



Dr. Thomas F. Fitzgerald
Staff Writer
CSNA R-2074

Through the Numismatic Glass

AVIGNON - A MOST HISTORICAL CITY

A few months ago I reported on my October trip to London with Bill Spengler. At the end of that week, I left Bill in London and flew to Paris, the first leg of my journey to Avignon in the southern part of France. This trip had been on my "Must Do" list for many years but is never found on the usual tours. I was hesitant to



O. GESTE DEL.

Comtat Venaissin and Avignon

attempt this by myself as I do not speak French and I knew the journey would involve finding the correct subways in Paris, changing trains and traveling to Avignon by myself. With the encouragement of several of my friends, I decided to be adventuresome and see this very historical city.

Avignon is situated like a giant rock that overlooks the flat countryside on one side and, most importantly, is bounded by the Rhone and the Durance rivers on the other side. Its history goes back to the Neolithic era. While the Cretans were building the first palaces in Cnossos and while the pharaohs of the XIIth dynasty were reigning in Egypt, Avignon was a bustling trade center.

After the fall of Marseilles in 49 B.C., Avignon gained its independence and became a center unto itself. Julius Caesar created a few colonies for his veterans at Avignon, Orange, Apt, and Carpentras. By the time of Hadrian (2nd century A.D.), Avignon had become an authentic Latin city of approximately 27,000 inhabitants. But it is the Middle Ages that witnessed the true importance of this pivotal city.

Following the barbarian invasions that meant the end of the Roman Empire, the city became a strategic fortified place. Avignon was laid a siege to by Clovis in 500 A.D., but in vain. By the 8th century, the Arabs invaded Provence and occupied the city, adding to its fortifications. To defeat the Arabs, Charles Martel had to lay siege to the city twice (737 and 739). Later, Avignon became part of the proud empire of Charlemagne and still later, that of his sons.

At the beginning of the 11th century, Provence belonged to three distinct houses: Toulouse, Urgel, and Barcelona. By 1129, a new system of government was proclaimed establishing the city as a "republic." The new government brought



Saint-Benezet Bridge

prosperity resulting in a change to a cosmopolitan town built for trade and transit. At the end of the 12th century, the famous Saint-Benezet bridge was built. Both Notre-Dame-des-Doms Cathedral and Saint-Ruf Abbey were enlarged.

At the start of the 13th century, Avignon sided with the Count of Toulouse when the Albigenses's war broke out. Victory provided the town with much power and enough courage in fact, to resist the King of France as well as the Church. But in 1226, King Louis VIII, with the tacit support of the Papal Legate, led an army down the Rhone Valley and laid the city to a siege and captured Avignon. The ramparts of the citadel and 300 fortified positions were destroyed and a major part of Saint-Benezet bridge was pulled down. In 1274, Pope Gregory X acquired the Venaissin County (but not the city) and in 1290, Charles 2nd of Anjou, Count of Provence, was the Master of Avignon.

The Avignon of the Popes

But it was the 14th century that was to make the city famous. With the popes settling down in Avignon from 1309 onward, it soon became a thriving center of Christianity, culture, and trade; one of the most important cities in Western Christendom. The selection of Avignon by the popes was not without reason. Politics and geography both played a major role. This city of Charles d'Anjou, Count of Provence and reliable vassal of the Church is bordered by the Venaissin County, a pontifical possession since 1274. Furthermore, at the start of the 14th century, this was a very peaceful place and the strategic location of Avignon



Picture of Palace



Picture of the 1619 Mint with the author standing in front

(junction of rivers) provided excellent transportation and met all the requirements for carrying out international relations.

Clement V, an itinerant pope, was the first pontiff arriving in 1309 and settled in the large Dominican Monastery. He was followed by a number of popes and, because of the Great Schism, several anti-popes.

Palais des Popes

In July 1335, Pope Benedict XII notified the Papal Court of his intentions to return to Rome from his dwelling place in Avignon. While he prepare to move the papal administration, he decided to construct a new palace in Avignon. The job was given to a friend, Pierre Poisson from Mirepoix, who was both an architect and the head of the construction project. A considerable work force was required. In January,

1337, he hired 45 mastermasons, 22 woodworkers, 15 quarriers, 90 unskilled laborers, and 5 plumbers. By May, 1337, Pierre Poisson was directing nearly 800 workers. Construction was underway on the magnificent “Palais des Papes” once described as “the most beautiful and most fortified house in the world.” With 4.3 km-long ramparts, the palace formed part of the fortifications of the city to protect Avignon from attacks by the mercenaries from the Hundred Years’ War. The next pope, Clement VI, purchased the city from Queen Joanna I of Naples in 1348 and added two new wings to the palace as well as embellishing it.

With the end of the “Great Schism” (1417), the palace was placed under the authority of the papal legates or vice-legates and no longer served as the home of the popes or the papal government. Finally, in 1791, Avignon along with the entire Comtat-Venaissin was annexed by France and the palace was utilized as an army barracks, resulting in many changes and, unfortunately, much deterioration. It was only in 1906 that a restoration project was begun; a project not yet completed after being interrupted by World War II.

In addition to the Grand Palace of the Popes, another attraction of Avignon is the old mint (Place de Palais). This building was constructed in 1619 by the vice-legate in the days of Cardinal Borghese. The huge high-relief front reflects the Italian architecture of the 17th century. The dragons and eagles that are seen on the front are parts of the armorial bearings of Pope Paul V and of his nephew, Cardinal Borghese. The building, so excellently preserved, now serves as a music school.

Although I could not speak any French, I was able to hire Johanna Koning as my personal guide. A wife and mother of three beautiful daughters, we were able to share information. This writer knew much about the history of the Avignon popes while Mrs. Koning taught me much about the palace, the beautiful tapestries and other works of art and about the enchanting city of Avignon. We have become good friends and this writer owes much to her generosity of time and her kindness. She made the trip very rewarding and enriched by experience immeasurably.

Coinage from Avignon

What one calls the coins of Avignon actually came from three different mints, all within the Comtat Venaissin. The very first coins were minted for Avignon the Commune (1239-1251) and consisted of billon deniers similar to the money in use in other parts of what is today France. The coins may be identified by the inscription “AVINIO” and usually include a key or two keys. The first papal coins from the Comtat were struck at the mint at Pont-de-Sorgues for Pope Boniface VIII (1294-1303) and consisted of some small billon deniers showing the bust of the pope and



Denier, billon, Commune (1239-1251)
Obv - Keys “AVENIO” (Avignon)
Rev - Cross “NENNSIS (Venaissin County)

Denier, billon, Pope Boniface (1294-1303)
Obv - Bust “DOMINI PAPE” (Lord Pope)
Rev - Cross “COITAT VERAUSIN” (Mint at Pont-de-Sorgues)

bearing his name. The inscription "COITAT VENAUSIN" identifies the Comtat. Two other popes had money made at this facility: Pope Clement V (1305-1314) and Clement VI (1342-1352). Following the purchase of the city by Pope Clement VI, mint operations were returned to Avignon and silver coins called a "Gros" and fractions thereof were struck along with the billon deniers. The identifying inscription for the city "COMES VENESINI" appears on some of this coinage. Coinage continued to be struck for the popes, and three anti-popes: Clement VII (1378-1394), Benedict XIII (1394-1415), and John XXIII (1410-1415).

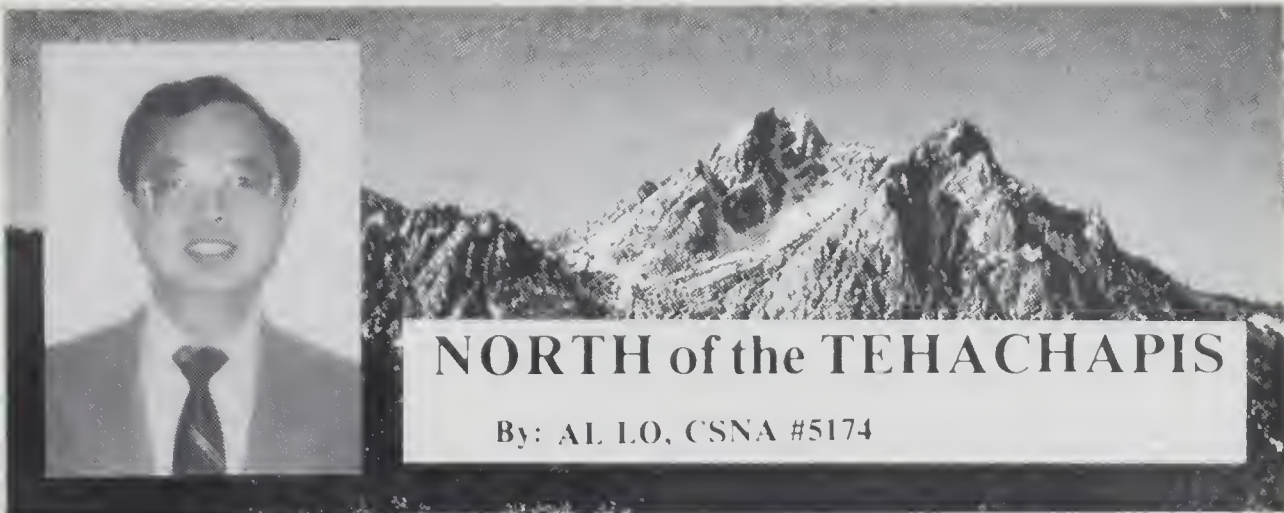


Gros, silver, Pont-de-Sorgues Mint
Top - Clement V (1304-1314) *Bottom - Clement VI (1342-1352)*



Double Denier, billon, Innocent VI (1352-1362), Pont-de-Sorgues Mint
Obv - Bishop's Miter & name of pope
Rev - Cross "COMES VENESINI"

Following the Great Schism that ended in 1417, coins were struck in the names of the popes under the direction of the legates and vice-legates whose names also appeared on the pieces. The last coins struck at the mint in Avignon were under the name of Pope Innocent XII (1691-1700) and his vice-legate, Marco-Delphini and include silver 1/12 D'Ecus dated 1692-95.



NORTH of the TEHACHAPIS

By: AL LO, CSNA #5174

THE RON MILLER AWARD

The *Northern California Numismatic Association* (NCNA) announced the creation of the "Ron Miller Memorial Award." "Whereas the late Ronald Lee Miller (1944-1993) was among the most respected and esteemed persons in northern California numismatics, whereas his service and support to the hobby were exemplary and significant by any judge and measure, and whereas it is fitting and proper for this Association, for itself and for the hobby in California, to honor and to memorialize a man of his character and career, therefore, the Northern California Numismatic Association (NCNA), by this Charter, hereby creates and endows the perpetual recognition named "The Ron Miller Memorial Award" and subtitled, in short, "The Miller Award.""

The award, to be bestowed beginning 1995 and annually thereafter, will be a one ounce silver medal with the portrait of Ron Miller on the obverse. Eligibility and criteria for the award is any active coin hobbyist residing within California at least five full years and having superior, sustained, and significant support and service to numismatics and its coin hobby and/or devotion and dedication, consistent and meritorious, to numismatic organizations.

SHAMELESSLY AND RELENTLESSLY...

The *Fresno Numismatic Society* is fortunate to have a very ambitious new editor, JOHN CLIFTON, for The Fresno Numismatist. John has introduced many regular, interesting, and informative columns such as "The Pres. Sez," "Commemorative Corner," "Auction Action," "Monthly Coin Spot Light," and "Numismatic Scrambler." The last couple of issues have spotlighted the club's National Coin Week activities. Celebrity John was interviewed by Lucy Ruiz--the Kathy Lee Crosby of the Fresno morning TV airwaves--for a 10 minute segment of the "Sun-Up" show. John writes that he shamelessly and relentlessly promoted National Coin Week, our club, and the hobby in general. The club also placed silver coins dated 1946 (the year of the club's founding) into circulation around town.

WHEATIES FOR BREAKFAST AND.....

The *Redwood Empire Coin Club* had a terrific National Coin Week display at the G&G Market which gave the club a lot of exposure. Lots of people came to its booth and asked questions about the club. OVER 5,000 wheat pennies were given out over two days. Silver certificates were also given out. A big thank you to

MERLE AVILA for supervising the booth.

In March, STEVE TITMUS had an outstanding display of the Carson City Mint and presented a very interesting video of the mint and minting in that part of Nevada. Large Russian Coppers 1724-1808 was another interesting exhibit from GUY SHAPPY at the April meeting.

HALL OF FAME FOR ROD!!!

San Jose Coin Club's new 1994-95 officers were elected in April. RAY JOHNSON is the new President, helped by Vice President RICH NEDVED, Junior Vice President CHRIS ROGERS, Recording Secretary DON BARSII, Corresponding Secretary AL LO, and Treasurer WALLY WALLAKER.

ROD PERRELLI became the newest member to be inducted into the San Jose Coin Club Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is very exclusive, with only one member elected each year, for dedicated service to the club and numismatics. Rod served for a number of years as club historian and bourse chairman. CONGRATULATIONS ROD!!

Recent speakers were DAVE LANGE, "Mercury Dimes," and LEE WILSON, "Coin Show Security."

FIRST EVER PNC!!

The *Fairfield Coin Club* bid a sad farewell to Treasurer JOE BLEAU, who left the area due to the impending closing of Mare Island. Joe was the Treasurer for the last 2+ years and was active on the Board of Officers and at the club.

Past President MICHAEL TURRINI prepared and donated the club's first-ever PNC (philatelic-numismatic cover) issue in honor of the club's 21st birthday. Thirty were canceled by the Fairfield Post Office on March 23, 1994, the club's birthday, and one was given free to those in attendance at the March meeting.

The club is busily working on its 1994 annual coin show which will be on September 18th and held at the Suisun City Recreation Center.

NOW IT'S CHUCK & CHUCK

The *Alameda Coin Club* has a new President, CHUCK WHITE, who replaced RICHARD "SAM" SAMUELSON when Sam resigned due to a bad heart condition. CHUCK CALL is now the Vice President, replacing Chuck.

When the club was temporarily prevented from using its normal meeting spot, it met at the Roundtable Pizza and had a great turnout, even getting some Little League guests. HANS HANSSON was a recent guest speaker, speaking on "Paper Money" and DUANE FEISEL informed them on "California Tokens" of the area.

IT'S THE 400TH....

Four hundred meetings and still going strong marked *San Francisco Coin Club's* March meeting. A special 400th meeting silver medal was struck, commemorative wooden nickels (courtesy of MICHAEL TURRINI and GORDON DONNELL) were given to attendees, and refreshments were enjoyed by all. DAVE LANGE was the guest speaker who spoke on "The Mercury Dime: The Coin, The Legend, and The Book." "Railroad Exonumia" was the topic of DON THRALL's April talk and "Love Tokens" was KEN BARR's May topic.

WE'RE THE CHEAPEST!!!

The *Peninsula Coin Club* elected MARK GEALY as its new President. Also elected to help Mark were RICHARD SHUSTERMAN, Vice President; RON

IKEBE, Secretary; and FRED VAN DEN HAAK, Treasurer.

Bulletin editor, FRED VAN DEN HAAK, claims that the club's \$3.00 dues are the LOWEST OF ANY COIN CLUB IN THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA! Anyone wishing to join may do so at the club's meeting on the second Monday of each month at California Federal Savings, 2180 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, California or write Fred at P.O. Box 60484, Palo Alto, CA 94306-0484. Monthly meetings include a show & tell, discussion topic, 3 quiz questions, door prize, and raffle.

WHAT SHALL WE DO???

Diablo Numismatic Society entertained themselves with an "Other Hobbies Night" at the April meeting and in May, DAVE LANGE spoke about his Mercury Dime book. The 35th anniversary of the Diablo Numismatic Society is coming up next year. Requests for ideas have been made to the members but currently there are no plans to celebrate this momentous event. They SHOULD!

EVERYTHING WE EVER WANTED TO KNOW....

In March, the *Cupertino Coin Club* elected new 1994-95 officers to lead the club-- President AL LO, Vice President BOB TOPOR, Youth Vice President ROB WALKER, Recording Secretary MARTHA TOPOR, and Treasurer RON ISHIZAKI. Its 24th annual coin show was a success with good crowds on Saturday, good buys on Sunday, and lots of help and hard work from many of its members. Winners of the exhibit trophies were GARY ACQUISTAPACE, winning the Ray Erkson Best of Show Trophy for his Silver Pesos of Mexico display, and CHUCK WHITE winning the First Award with GORDON DONNELL taking a Second Award.

DENNIS OLSWANG told members "Everything We Ever Wanted to Know About the Maria Theresa Thaler But Were Afraid to Ask" at the February meeting. The April meeting featured the induction of club officers by DEAN SODERSTROM and the enjoyment of cakes and punch to celebrate the club's 24th birthday.

WAY TO GO, GORDON...

The *Pacific Coast Numismatic Society* continues to have members who win honors. Newest member to win accolades is GORDON DONNELL, who received the ANA PRESIDENTIAL AWARD from ANA Executive Director, ROBERT LEUVER, at the annual Vallejo show on May 1. Gordon is ANA Regional Representative, wooden money collector, and member and officer of numerous coin clubs. CONGRATULATIONS GORDON!!!

PCNS proudly announced the publication of its first monograph, "The Old Streets of San Francisco, Early Street Names on Some Brass Tokens" which is FREE to club members but can be ordered from the club at a cost of \$6.50 postpaid.

Members also voted to pledge \$250 to the M.I.N.T. committee which is developing plans for continuing the operation of the Old Mint in San Francisco.

BLACK DEATH AT LNS...

Liberty Numismatic Society's February Medal Night included the presentation of one of three off-metal sets of the 1993 LNS "Bicentennial of the Cent" medals to winning designer MIKE SULAK. The other two sets as well as the canceled die were auctioned for the benefit of the club treasury. Past President REGAN SHEA was also honored with a uniface "Presidents Medal." March's meeting featured BOB TOPOR's talk and slide show on "America's Most Beautiful Coin." Another interesting

presentation was STEPHEN HUSTON's "Holy Wars and the Black Death: A Survey of Economic Forces Leading to Modern Coinage."

To celebrate National Coin Week, DAVE LANGE convinced the Millbrae Library to display LNS's outstanding exhibit "Collecting Money is Fun" at the entrance to the library for the entire month of April.

BLAME IT ON TAXES....

The after tax season "Hot-Dog" social drew a large crowd to the April meeting of the *Delta Coin Club*. There was lots of food and desserts and the only problem was that SYD KASS' chili beans were a little short for the larger than anticipated crowd. However, no one left hungry!! Syd also announced that he would give a special prize to the first person to bring a CRISP UNCIRCULATED 1993 series Federal Reserve note to the meeting. I wonder WHO won WHAT prize?

DAVE LANGE was a recent speaker on Mercury Dimes and KEVIN MALOY gave an ANA slide presentation on what else?.....Military Payment Certificates for which he has a GREAT award winning display!

BITTEN BY THE BUG....

Program Chairperson IRIS ATKINSON scheduled a "My Favorite Coin Evening" at the *Fremont Coin Club* and showed a Ron Miller birthday gift as her favorite. Other members described their favorite coin and Editor ROGER LYLES wrote, "All in all each coin was described and we can understand how the hobby "bug gets his teeth in." Other exciting evenings were "World War I" Night, Junior Night, Coin Grading Night, and a "Love Token" talk by KEN BARR.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU....

The *Gateway Coin Club* is half way to achieving its goal of 100 in 94. The club ended the year with 74 members and now has 87. With more than half a year to go, it looks like a cinch to go over that goal!!! Atta way to GO!!

The Gateway club members are an "On the Go" bunch, with 44 members trekking to the old San Francisco Mint Museum in March and enjoying a trip to Reno for the Reno Coin Club show in April.

An extensive list of guest speakers include SEAN MOFFIT about his work making Disneyland locker and Chuck-E-Cheese game tokens for Hoffman & Hoffman Mint, DAVID LANGE, "The Complete Guide to Mercury Dimes," and the whole club, "Getting to Know You" where members were asked to tell what they collect, describe and/or show their favorite coin, and what they do when not collecting coins (occupation, other hobbies, etc.).

MEDALS FOR ALL!!!

The *Sacramento Valley Coin Club* (SVCC) awarded handsome certificates and bronze 35th anniversary medals to all speakers for 1993. Honored were BOB BANDY, BOB DE CESARIS, WOODY CHAMBERLIN, MERLE COOVER, STEWART HUCKABY, DAVID LANGE, JEFF SHEVLIN, and BETTYE WEBB. A special club donation auction was held in March as a fund-raiser. Three silver SVCC medals were presented as awards to the members whose donated materials brought the greatest dollar amounts to the club. Award winners were the LEWIS FAMILY, BOB and PATTY BANDY, and LORIN BAILEY.

SVCC members participated in the ANA National Coin Week, "The World's Largest Treasure Hunt," by dropping small numismatic items into circulation. This

included wheat cents, Indian head cents, buffalo nickels, V-nickels, 90% silver coins, odd denomination coins, as well as obsolete currency such as U.S. Notes and silver certificates. Half dollars, Eisenhower, and SBA dollars and \$2 bills were also spent.

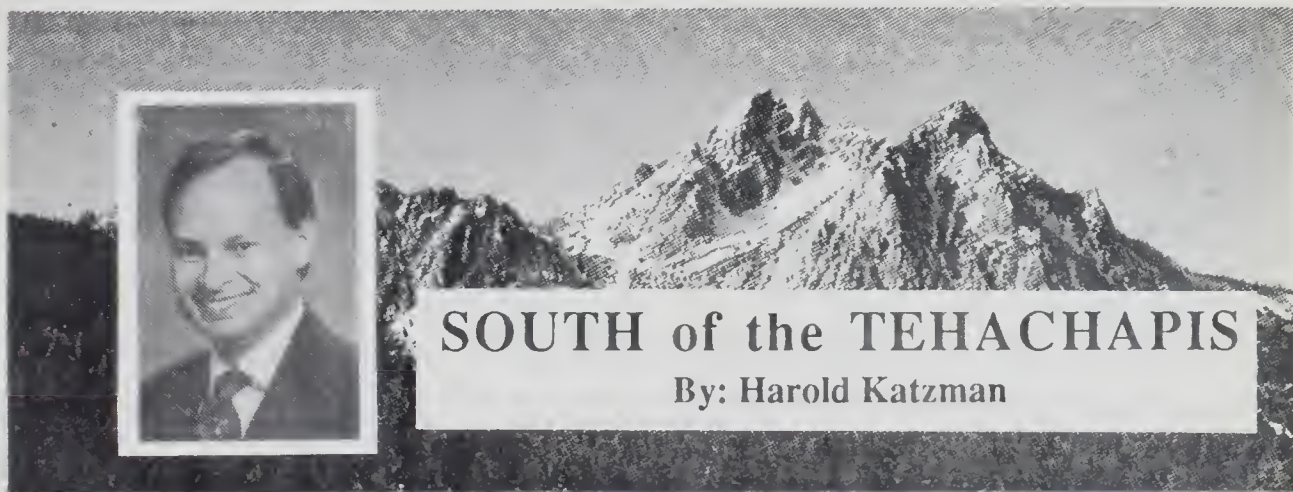
WINNER TAKES ALL...

Livermore Valley Coin Club sent only the May issue of its newsletter and CHUCK WHITE's "Ancient Coins" talk was the highlight of the evening. The "Coin of the Month" was a Liberty nickel with anyone bringing a nickel with full readable date receiving a ticket in the drawing--winner in drawing takes all the nickels!

WOODS FOR SALE!!!

The *Vallejo Numismatic Society* makes available a wooden dollar commemorating the 40th anniversary (1954-94) of the society. This wooden dollar, printed in purple color on both sides, shows the flying eagle cent logo of the society on the obverse and the reverse shows an old promotional design depicting Vallejo in the 1950's.

The price is 50¢ each plus SASE or three for one dollar plus SASE. Mail order with remittance and SASE to: Gordon R. Donnell, Vallejo Woods, 1960 San Antonio, Berkeley, CA 94707.



DON'T TAKE ANY WOODEN NICKELS

The March meeting of the Whittier Coin Club had CHARLES HENDRICKS give an exciting program on "Gaming Tokens." He had on exhibit many rare and unusual pieces. Club member PHIL CHANG presented the April program on the "Story of Wooden Money." Phil's collection numbers in the thousands of pieces. I guess he never heard the expression "don't take any wooden nickels." May saw FRANK DE LEON talk on "Pre-Columbian Indian Designs on Mexican Coins."

LONG DISTANCE SPEAKER

WILLIAM SPENGLER from Colorado Springs, Colorado was the special featured speaker at the March meeting of the Upland Coin Club. Mr. Spengler had earlier in the day been one of the speakers at the CSNA symposium. His topic for the evening was "Maharajahs of India." Also in attendance at this meeting was our own President, DAVID LANGE. April saw the club host a numismatic trivia quiz. Club members

with the correct answers received prizes. At this meeting members AL and VIRGINIA HALL celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. Congratulations! ROY IWATA of Seal Beach presented the May program on "Die Varieties."

ETHEL "JEFFERSON?" LENHERT

The April meeting of the West Valley Coin Club had ETHEL LENHERT give a program about her favorite guy, "Thomas Jefferson." (Or is this her second favorite guy? Any comments MARLIN?). Ethel spoke about Jefferson's life and had an excellent exhibit of coins, medals, and memorabilia on Jefferson. It was noted in the March bulletin that CSNA Vice President PHIL IVERSEN's father had passed away, as well as long time member HY RAPPAPORT (due to injuries from the January 17 earthquake). The club extends their sympathies to the respective families. PHIL IVERSEN did present a program the following month entitled "State and Federal Coppers of Mexico." Bulletin editor DILLON FROST penned his last one in May. He will be moving to Lancaster. Dillon did an excellent job and will be missed by all.

HAPPY 30th BIRTHDAY

The Verdugo Hills Coin Club's March meeting had member JEFF KLEMZAK give a program titled "Postage and Fractional Currency." The slide show told the history of this currency and was enjoyed by all. In May the club celebrated its 30th birthday with a huge party. Special guests were the club's first President and First Lady: JOHN and KAY GORK. The program was a brown bag auction (could someone explain that to me?). KEITH MOSURE had a tremendous birthday cake for all to gobble up. MICHAEL AARON donated two books, "U.S. Silver Dollar Encyclopedia" and "Cameo and Brilliant Proof Coinage" to the club to use any way the club wants. For selling 72 books of tickets for the club's show, ED GAGON received a 5 peso Mexican gold piece. In April the program was the "Do's and Don'ts of Coin Collecting."

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Santa Barbara Coin Club welcomed long distance traveler BILL WISSLEAD in April. Bill spoke on the U.S. \$20 gold piece. Bill shared some interesting insights about our largest circulating coin. JOHN BARNES presented the April program titled "California Tokens." Not only was the program well received, but John was glad to be out of the Rock'n & Roll'n San Fernando Valley. New officers for the club are: President, GIL BARRY; Vice President, JOHN GORK; Secretary, VALERIE DABAGHIAN; Treasurer, MIKE HIDE; and Board Members PAT GREENWALD, EARL STANFIELD, JOE DANDONA, DICK NOFFZ, BRIX WESTERGAARD, and GENE KING.

"THESE ARE A FEW OF MY FAVORITE COINS"

"My Favorite or First Coin/Medal" was the March program for the San Diego Numismatic Society. Those participating included LARRY BABER, CHUCK LUCE, GINNY BOURKE, JACK HOOK, MIKE SHAW, ROGER SULLIVAN, FLOYD MURPHY, PAUL BOLTZ, FRANCIS JONES, and ROBERT FRITSCH. Once again San Diego County coin collectors attended the CSNA Symposium held in Fullerton. Without a bus this year, 19 collectors attended; this was about one third of the total in attendance. April saw JOHN STADNYK talk on "Canadian Coinage." John informed the members that Canada has three mints and over 700 employees

who work on three 8 hour shifts.

The club thanked PAUL WHITNAH and MARTHA STEVENSON for donations to the club. May saw Oceanside/Carlsbad President ED WHEELER talk about Somalia. Ed recently visited that country.

ESHELMAN SUBSTITUTES FOR BASSLER

The February meeting of the San Bernardino County Coin Club once again had the distinguished DR. LARRY BURGESS talk on the 16th President, Abraham Lincoln. This year's discussion was titled "Why Was Lincoln Great?" As always, Dr. Burgess had some enlightening stories and quotes to share with the group. The club surprised Larry by awarding him "Honorary Member of the Year--1993." On Thursday, March 17, club Vice President TERRY ESHELMAN was having a quiet dinner when suddenly the silence was broken by the ringing of the telephone. Terry answered and discovered that speaker RICHARD BASSLER will be unable to make the club meeting that night. After placing the phone down, terry had a mini-breakdown. What to do in less than two hours? So Terry picked himself up and put together a question and answer program that several club members commented on: "we should do this again, it was fun." The program was "JUST OUTSTANDING." Well done Terry! ! !

TELL ALL NIGHT

The April meeting of the Orange Coast Coin Club saw WILLIAM WISSLEAD present part two of an audio program on Amon Carter, Jr. In May the club featured "Show and Tell Night." (We assume this was numismatically related?). The club is looking for a new and cheaper meeting place. So far, no luck.

COINS FOR KIDS SCHOOL PROGRAM

The March meeting of the L.A. Coin Club saw JOHN BARNES talk on "California Tokens." JOHN DAVIS and SAM GOOSEN were thanked for donating coins to the LYNDA RICHARD "Coins for Kids" school program. Lynda and company travel to schools talking about coins and coin collecting. Each child gets a coin, hence they go through many coins. If you would like more information about this program or wish to donate coins, contact Lynda, c/o L.A. Coin Club, P.O. Box 3637, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359-0637. In April eight year old (that's right) ZEVE AKERLING in full pirate attire (including eye patch) was to present a program on "Pirate Money." Well, he arrived at the club on Good Friday and saw no activity. And since Passover was still going on he assumed the meeting was canceled. He has promised to appear in June, unless he's forced to "walk the plank."

Special thanks go to MICHAEL AARON for donating two books to the club. May's meeting saw ARRI JACOB from Long Beach present a program on bank notes. Is this young collector following in the footsteps of another famous bank note collector? CHARLES COLVER, of course! The club was glad to have back in attendance PAUL BORACK and HARRY STORCH, both of whom had been out due to illness.

WHAT WE COLLECT

The March meeting of the Litton Coin Club featured its own members doing the program. They were asked to bring what they collect and share a few stories or tall tales about them. April saw LLOYD BEAUCHAINE present an outstanding slide program titled "The Evolution of Portraits on Coins." May saw G. LEE KUNTZ talk on, "Friday Night at the Movies, The Bank by the Side of the Road."

DR. TOM DOES IT AGAIN

"25 Years of the Judah Magnes Jewish Hall of Fame Medals," was the video program at the March meeting of the Israel Numismatic Society of L.A. This new video tape was presented by MEL WACKS. MURRAY SINGER exhibited past bulletins from the club to the surprise of past editor DONNA SIMS, who was in attendance. "My Favorite Medals" an AINA slide program produced by MAX GLADSTONE was April's show. The club noted in the April bulletin that KAY NORTHAM has been in and out of the hospital and they are wishing her a speedy recovery. DR. THOMAS FITZGERALD presented a brand new program titled, "Four Famous Women on Medals and Currency of Israel." Once again Tom comes up with another new and truly exciting program. Keep up the good work.

"OLD MAN RIVER"

The March meeting of the Hemet Coin Club was devoted to "Other Hobby Night." Such other hobbies as: TRUDY MITCHELL's table decorations made from scraps, STEWART BINGHAM's barbed wire collection, CHARLIE MILLER's autographed coin books, JIM "TEX" RITTER's record collection, BILL WISSLEAD's heirloom time clock, TERRI HALL's oil paintings, ANGUS BRUCE's postcards of Hemet, CLIFF PARR's 69 gauge English 1780's flint lock lancer pistol, GUY MILL's search for Black history memorabilia, and last but not least, GEORGE MAOUHJOURIS singing (?) "Old Man River." What a night. "Buffalo" BILL WISSLEAD spoke on the Indian Head nickel in April. Bill showed the 10 ways to authenticate the three-legged buffalo. A special thanks was given to member GERALD LIBERTY for make a new auction board. The May meeting featured ANGUS BRUCE giving a slide program titled "Fact or Fiction?"

OH CANADA!

The April meeting of the Garden Grove Coin Club had STANLEY HONG present a program on "Numismatics and Taxes." It was a very educational program. The May meeting featured WALTER DITTRICH presenting a program titled "Maple Leaf Country (Canada)." Walter has been collecting Canadian coins for many, many years.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The Heartland Coin Club installed new officers for 1994: President, DOROTHY BABER; 1st Vice President, CHUCK LUCE; 2nd Vice President, TOM SULLIVAN; Treasurer, JOE GIULIANO; Secretary, JOE WELCH; and Corresponding Secretary, CLIFFORD WILLIS. HARVEY ROSE was the installing officer. JEFF SIMPSON provided a very interesting program on the history, coins, and paper money of Egypt at the April meeting. The club celebrated its 32nd birthday in May. Happy birthday Heartland!

YAPPING FOR DOLLARS

April saw G. LEE KUNTZ give the program before the Fontana United Numismatists. His topic, "Land of Stone Money." Lee has visited the small island of Yap where stone money is used. There, your wealth is measured in how big your money is and how many stones you have lining the front yard of your home. Lee's great knack for "yapping" allowed him to leave the island with some stone money. In May, DR. SHELBY WAGNER presented a great program titled "The Great Alaska Gold Stampede." Gold has been one of the most alluring medals and the discovery of gold in Alaska set off another bonanza.

THE \$18,000 KENNEDY HALF DOLLAR

JOHN MILES BAKER, the founder of the 99 PNC Company was the guest speaker at the April meeting of the Culver City Coin Club. John created the first PNC (Philatelic Numismatic Combination) back in 1964. John wanted to certify receiving the 1964 Kennedy half dollar on the first day of its release to the public. So he did it the only way possible: he placed a postage stamp on the half and had the Post Office cancel it. BINGO!! The first PNC was produced and so a new hobby emerged. And that half dollar recently sold for, you guessed it, \$18,000. May saw LYNDIA RICHARD present a wonderful program titled "United States History Through Our U.S. Coins." This program is very similar to the one Lynda gives when visiting schools throughout the L.A. County area.

AND SPEAKING OF LYNDIA

The March meeting of the Downey Numismatists saw LYNDIA RICHARD do her special program on the "History of the United States as Seen Through Its Coins." It seems that Lynda is on the go again. The April meeting saw PAUL "COINO" BORACK conduct five games of COINO. Five lucky winners went home with some great prizes.

BEST SHOW IN YEARS

The March meeting of the Covina Coin Club had BILL SPENGLER of Colorado Springs, Colorado speak on "Medals of the Maharajah's of India." April saw CY PHILLIPS talk on "Interesting Characters of the Ol' West." It was a very informative program. The club's annual dinner was held May 3rd at the International Buffet (and I missed it RATS!). At the dinner it was reported that the show was "the best in years" with over 300 attending the Sunday show. May's program saw JERRY YAHALOM talk on "Medallic Jerusalem."

HAPPY GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

The Bay Cities Coin Club celebrated its Golden Anniversary on April 10, 1994 with a banquet held at the Velvet Turtle Restaurant. What a blast they had. The banquet room was filled to capacity. LENORE DONALD reminisced about her parents, Karl and Gracie Brainard, who were there at the beginning. The unchanged MAX WEDERTZ told about what happened when he was President in 1953-54. BEN ABELSON told of his Presidency in 1966 and how it was a stepping stone for him. DR. BYRON TATLOW, an early member of the club (and S.I.N.), was a surprise guest who has not been back to the club in many years. ED and IRENE HALLETT came in from Sun City, Arizona to celebrate the event (and left with a batch of prizes). Over \$250 in door prizes were given away, including two Mexican gold pieces. HANS and BEATE RAUCH donated armloads of books for the door prizes. Letters of congratulations were read from ANA, CSNA, NASC, and Coin World. WAYNE PRATALI from Goldline International of Santa Monica delivered an interesting perspective on coins and medals. This was a night that will be remembered for many, many years. Congratulations Bay Cities on 50 OUTSTANDING years of service to our hobby! The May meeting had PHIL IVERSEN present a slide program on "Pre-Columbian Artifacts and Related Modern Gold Coins."

HAPPY 35TH BIRTHDAY

The Glendale Coin Club celebrated its 35th birthday in March. They had a great

attendance and super party to celebrate the event. In February, WILLIAM GRANT drove all the way out from Highland, California to present the program. His topic: "Gibraltar." Bill and his lovely wife FREDDIE visited this small "rock" when they were stationed in Spain. Bill spoke about the country and the history of its coins.

CALL ALL WHO'S WHO! CALL ALL WHO'S WHO!

H E L P ! ! ! I need you. That's right, you, to help nominate potential Who's Who in Calcoin News subjects. All you have to do is write up an article about someone who is active in the hobby and belongs to Cal State. Send that along with a photo and then presto, bingo, it may appear in YOUR Calcoin News Who's Who.

Please keep your bulletins coming. This month I received bulletins from 20 clubs. Yet there are over 40 clubs locally in southern California. If you would like to see your club in print, place me on your mailing list at P.O. Box 725, Tustin, CA 92681-0725. And if you know of something special coming up, just send me a note. Thanks for your support.

94th CONVENTION MEDAL

PRICE LIST OF PRE-PAID MEDALS:

Numbered Silver Sets	three pieces	\$20.00	plus postage .98
Single Silver Medal	each	\$17.00	plus postage .52
Golden Bronze Medal	each	\$2.00	plus postage .52
Oxidized Bronze Medal	each	\$3.00	plus postage .52

At press time the design for the 94th convention medal was not available for publication. Most medals are sold on a subscription basis, so be sure to order early if you are not a previous purchaser. The medals will be available at the Golden State Coin Show (see page 128 of this issue for details) or from:

Joyce Kuntz
Medal Coordinator
697 Scripps Drive
Claremont, CA 91711
(909)-621-2196

ALL ORDERS MUST BE PRE-PAID.

Please make checks payable to CSNA.

CSNA / ANAheim 1995

Our medal has been designed and sent on to the ANA for their approval. So far, the only change they have suggested is that "anniversary" be spelled out. Also, we believe the actual dates "Aug 16-20 1995" should appear on the medal.

Our medal theme is to commemorate the entire state of California; a land that has been blessed with so many resources. These include agriculture, oil, minerals, the ocean and all of its resources, show business, many cultures, technology, and so much more. This is all reflected in the inscription, "COPIOUS HERITAGE." These blessings are further reflected in the cornucopia with the letters "CSNA" for our association, the host for the 1995 convention.

Yet, with all of the above mentioned resources, without doubt, the most significant event in this state's history was the discovery of gold. This is reflected in the other side of the medal. We hope you are all pleased with the design.



We are pleased to add two more committee co-chairmen to our ANA/CSNA team. Ken Barr from San Jose and Dorothy Baber from El Cajon have agreed to co-chair the "Patrons Committee." Of course, Ken will be responsible for Northern California and Dorothy will handle Southern California.

Our committee chairmen will have two meetings with ANA officials in the next couple of months. On June 4th, a meeting has been scheduled at the Long Beach Coin and Stamp Exposition and on September 24th, the group will again have a meeting in Anaheim, probably at the Convention Hotel. This column will keep you informed.

Do you have a young numismatist who might be considered as a page for the ANA convention in Anaheim, 1995? That young collector must be between 13 and 17 years of age and must be a member of either the ANA or the CSNA. The (CSNA) membership can be arranged; just contact Awanda Ayers, our corresponding secretary.

Dr. Thomas F. Fitzgerald
General Chairman

HISTORY OF THE CSNA MEDALLIONS

BY Virginia Hall
PHOTOS BY William O. Wisslead

1988 -- SAN JOSE

The 82nd convention was held May 20-22, 1988 in the San Jose Convention Center. Ken Barr was General Chairman.

The theme of the convention was "Transportation," inspired by San Jose's recent introduction of SCAT, a light-rail transit system.

The convention medal shows the logo of the transit authority which includes a streetcar. The medal was designed by SJCC member Ed Flemate.

The host of the convention was the San Jose Coin Club.

Quantity struck: 2000 Golden Bronze
300 Oxidized Bronze
300 .999 Fine Silver



1988 -- ONTARIO

The 83rd convention was held at the Red Lion Inn on Thanksgiving weekend, November 25-27, 1988. The General Chairman was William J. Grant.

The theme of the 83rd was "The Colonial Convention" and was dedicated to the third President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson. The legacy of this man is cherished by all of us--Democracy--Freedom--Liberty, as depicted on the convention medal. The medal was designed by C.R. Woodward, member of the host club.

The Friday Luncheon hostess, Barbara Burke, and Joanne Danielson, noted quilter from Redlands, California, demonstrated how the colonial housewife made quilts for her family.

The convention host was the San Bernardino County Coin Club.

Quantity struck: 1000 Golden Bronze
200 Oxidized Bronze
200 .999 Fine Silver



COIN TRIVIA

BY Rus Stolling, CSNA R-5587

Is the Jefferson five-cent coin the last honest U.S. coin in circulation today?

The Lincoln cent began in 1909 as an alloy of 95% copper and the rest tin and zinc. It has been subject to several changes in composition over its 85 year history, including the 1943 steel/zinc "war alloy," and now since 1982, it is composed of almost exactly the reverse of its original mix of metals--97.5% zinc, 2.5% copper.

The Roosevelt dime, Washington quarter, and Kennedy half dollar all began as 90% silver and 10% copper blends, and now are laminates of various percentages of copper and nickel.

The nickel five cent coin was born in 1866 as the Shield five cent coin and attained notoriety in 1883 as the "No Cents" nickel. Evolving through the Indian Head (you can call it "Buffalo" if you like) nickel of 1913 to the Jefferson nickel of 1938 to the present, the nickel is the only U.S. coin to still be minted in its original composition. With the exception of the "war alloy" years, 1942 to 1945, the nickel has always been 75% copper and 25% nickel, representing 127 years of consistency and honest value.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE HALF DOLLARS GONE???

- or -

WHEN WILL THEY EVER LEARN???

(An open letter to whomever from Don W. Whaley, CSNA R-4199)

Toward the end of the previous century the U.S. Mint repeatedly stamped out horrendous volumes of Morgan silver dollars only to bag them, store them, and guard them for decades. Then to melt them and start the process all over again. This exercise in foolishness was the end result of lobbyists for the silver interests pushing through various acts of Congress (i.e., Bland-Allison 1878; Sherman Act 1890; Pittman Act 1918).

This was an expensive waste for the taxpayer that is, in all probability, being repeated today (sans melting) in the half dollar denomination. The 1994 edition of the "Redbook" indicates a total 1992 uncirculated grade copper-nickel mintage of 34,628,106 (P & D mints) and just like the Morgan dollar of its time, they are largely unwanted and unused by the general public. When did you last see even one 50¢ Kennedy in daily circulation?

The Numismatist, in their January, 1994 issue (they always publish a belated mint report) presents a figure as of ONLY August, 1993, showing 29,700,006 half dollars struck. So where are all these going?

Certainly not overseas as Double Eagles used to fly. With vaults full of Cu-Ni Kennedys, who benefits? It seems reasonable to conclude that the best recommendation would be to pull the plug on this over-production. A more realistic measure of the annual demand can be ascertained when one looks at the 1987 mintage of less than 6,000,000 actually required for uncirculated mint and souvenir sets. And of the current exorbitant mintages, guess who is paying for the manufacture, storage, and security? But perhaps my view on this is skewed and maybe someone else will have an insight I've overlooked.

Does anyone have a more benevolent view of this situation??? As a famous philosopher once said, "Knowledge is what's left over after we smarten up!!!"

CSNA MEDAL DESIGN CONTEST

The CSNA board has decided to institute a medal design competition beginning with the 95th convention, which is tentatively scheduled for January, 1995 in San Jose. The purpose is to allow members the opportunity to participate in the design of each convention medal.

Previously, medal designing was left to the General Chairman of each convention. With recent changes in the scheduling and sponsorship of CSNA coin shows, however, this job has become more centralized, no longer a rotating task shouldered by the leaders of the various member clubs around the state. Therefore, you are invited to read the following competition rules and SEND IN YOUR DESIGN (see rule 12 for the address).

RULES

- 1) The design should be presented on plain paper in a circle 6 to 8 inches in diameter.
- 2) The subject matter, MAIN THEME, should be depicted as large as the encompassing circle will allow. Supplementary words can then be placed in any or all remaining open areas.
- 3) The subject may be presented as a photograph, decal, penciled art layout supported with or without pictures. Formal art is not necessary.
- 4) The subject matter of the design should be relevant to CSNA's convention theme, which is: "California, Past or Present."
- 5) The convention number & date must be included in the design.
- 6) Do not include your initials on the design. These can be added after the judging.
- 7) The obverse side of the medallion will be CSNA's logo.
- 8) You may submit an explanation of your design.
- 9) You may submit up to three different designs.
- 10) No design may be offered which has already been selected or is under consideration by another organization.
- 11) If your design is of private or commercial subject matter, get written permission from the appropriate authority. If permission is not granted, the design of the first runner-up will be used.
- 12) All entries must be submitted to committee chairman G. Lee Kuntz, 697 Scripps Dr., Claremont, CA 91711 by August 15, 1994.
- 13) Judging will be made by a committee chosen by the CSNA board: G. Lee Kuntz, Marian Sinton, and Kay Lenker.
- 14) The winning design becomes the property of CSNA. All others will be returned to the designer in his SASE he provides.
- 15) CSNA Board of Directors reserves the right to modify the winning design to meet the requirements of the minting process. Any modifications will be cleared with the designer.
- 16) All CSNA paid up members are eligible to participate.

THE 26th ANNIVERSARY CSNA EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM AND INVITATIONAL

BY Dr. Tom Fitzgerald, Chairman

Photos BY Phil Iversen

The California State Numismatic Association's 26th Annual Educational Symposium and Invitational Exhibits took place at the Days Inn in Fullerton, California on Saturday, March 19, 1994. Approximately 90 participants enjoyed the offerings of four national speakers plus a surprise presentation by Cliff Mishler from Krause Publications.

After greetings from CSNA President, David W. Lange, the first speaker was introduced by Dr. Tom Fitzgerald, the Chairman of this event and Master of Ceremonies. William (Bill) O. Wisslead is past CSNA President, as well as president of many other numismatic groups including the N.A.S.C., C.O.I.N. and fourteen other organizations. Fitzgerald pointed out to the audience that Mr. Wisslead had served on the symposium committee for 26 consecutive years as well as being the Chairman for several years; yet he had never been a speaker until this year. Bill's topic, "An Overview of the Double Eagle," surveyed the history of this popular twenty-dollar gold coin and his talk was accompanied with slides.

William F. Spengler from Colorado Springs was next on the program. This renowned researcher and co-author (with Wayne G. Sayles) of "Turkoman Figural Bronze Coins and Their Iconography, Vol. I, the Artupids," led those in attendance on the solution of a numismatic mystery as he explained the meaning of symbols discovered on these Eastern coins. The title of his talk was "Astronomy, Astrology, and Numismatics: the Case of Turkoman Figural Copper Coins." This talk too, was illustrated with slides.

CSNA Vice President Phil Iversen introduced the invitational exhibits which were provided by the collectors from San Diego. They were truly outstanding.

Nine young numismatists, the guests of the N.A.S.C., enjoyed lunch with the four speakers. Following lunch, Scott A. Travers from New York held everyone's



Dave Lange receiving Numismatic Ambassador Award from Cliff Mishler of Numismatic News



Speakers, left to right: William Spengler, Scott Travers, Fred Schwan, and William Wisslead

attention as this vibrant speaker chose as his topic, "What's It Worth? Pricing as the Cornerstone of Consumer Protection." Mr. Travers utilized the overhead projector as well as participants from the audience to make his "case." He spoke, for example, about the problem with the "Population Reports" from the PCGS and explained the difficulties of reporting accurate data. At the close of his talk, Mr. Travers presented everyone in attendance with a complementary copy of his book, "One Minute Coin Expert--The Complete and Easy Guide for Fun and Profit."

After the young numismatists attending the symposium received a number of gifts courtesy of several gracious sponsors, Cliff Mishler was introduced. He gave a brief run-down on the Numismatic Ambassador Award and surprised CSNA President, David W. Lange, and speaker William F. Spengler, by naming both of them as the very latest "Numismatic Ambassadors." It certainly seems appropriate that these two gentlemen should receive this recognition at our annual symposium.

The fourth and last speaker, Fred Schwan from Port Clinton, Ohio, delighted everyone with his wit and humor. Remembering that June 6, 1994 will be the 50th anniversary of the World War II Great Invasion of Normandy, he presented a talk entitled "The Numismatics of 'D' Day: June 6, 1944." Memories were re-kindled, especially among those in the audience old enough to remember. Like the others, Mr. Schwan illustrated his presentation with slides. He (along with Joseph Boling) will soon publish a book on the numismatics of World War II. The program concluded with the panel-audience participation segment moderated by past CSNA President, Charles Colver.

We wish to thank the C.O.I.N. which again gave a grant to help make the day possible, as well as those who became patrons; the Covina Coin Club, Dan Harley, Galaxie Designs, and the N.A.S.C., for their support. The committee members were Charles Colver, William O. Wisslead, Freddie and William Grant, Al and Ginny Hall, Awanda Ayers, Ethel Lenhert, Phil Iversen, Kay Lenker, Don Foster, and Tom Fitzgerald.

Next year's 27th Symposium will be on Saturday, March 18, 1995 and we hope you all will attend.



1946 IOWA STATEHOOD CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE HALF DOLLAR



Part 18

The Lawrence Brothers: Not Alone

BY Michael S. Turrini, CSNA L-30-02

Dedication: This eighteenth article is dedicated to a fellow numismatist whose stature and capability transcends this Author, current president of the California State Numismatic Association (CSNA), David W. Lange. Mr. Lange has remained a staunch defender of this series. Thanks always, Mr. Lange.

The preceding two articles in this mini-series about those peculiar Lawrence brothers have reviewed their feud and heated exchanges with the Iowa Centennial Committee and the State Treasurer. As often quoted in this series, Lester Milligan (1893-1977), the Chairman of the Iowa Centennial Committee, bluntly remarked "the way they gripe."¹ Mr. Milligan's retort may have been intended for the twin and irritating Lawrence brothers. But the truth--that supplementary and newly located records now uncover--is that the Iowa Centennial Committee did receive a significant amount of critical, and in a few incidents extremely disapproving, mail complaining about the "Iowa Plan" of distribution and sales. This new information intimates that the Lawrence brothers, to their personal satisfaction, were not alone.²

This implication does not distract from the commonly held perception that of all the classical (1892-1954) commemorative coinages, the 1946 Iowa Statehood Centennial Commemorative half dollar was virtually alone in its honest handling and transactions. No scandal nor dishonesty can be charged against the Iowa Centennial Committee, its Ralph Evans (1896-1973), his unacknowledged associate Edith Wasson McElroy (1887-1975), who is evidently the cardinal person in this commemorative coin, and the then State Treasurer John M. Grimes (1878-1971). This Author has more than enough photocopied records in his possession to audit, even after nearly five decades, the balances and accounts down to the last cent.³ This series' heavy emphasis on statistics verifies this contention.

The objectives of this current article are to acknowledge that the derogatory Lawrence brothers were not without company. It will also serve to amplify the 12th article (*PCNS Journal*, July, 1992) by summarizing some of the reaction to this commemorative half dollar by coin hobbyists of the time, specifically coin dealers.⁴ This article is not to demote the current mini-series, but to complement it. Future articles will attempt to enumerate the whole Lawrence brothers controversy as well as that of other coin dealers.

All of this would not be possible if the State of Iowa and the State Historical Society of Iowa, serving as the State's Archives, had not acted more than four decades ago to file, and thus retain, two full cardboard file folder boxes of correspondence and papers. These materials were cited as "Governor's Office, Centennial Commission, Governor Blue, Boxes 1304 and 1305" and retained as archives under "Manuscripts."⁵ These yellow-tissue carbon copies, long forgotten letters, replies, memos, charts, and the like are both a novel and completely unstudied primary source.⁶ To digress briefly, during the last week of July and first week of August, 1993, this Author and co-researchers Larry Adams of

Boone, Iowa and Jan Henke of Fairfield, California were in Iowa researching at the State Historical Society's building and museum in downtown Des Moines. During this visit Becki Peterson, Archivist, retrieved in error these two boxes, not called for. The information discovered was, and remains, overwhelming, nearly incomprehensible!

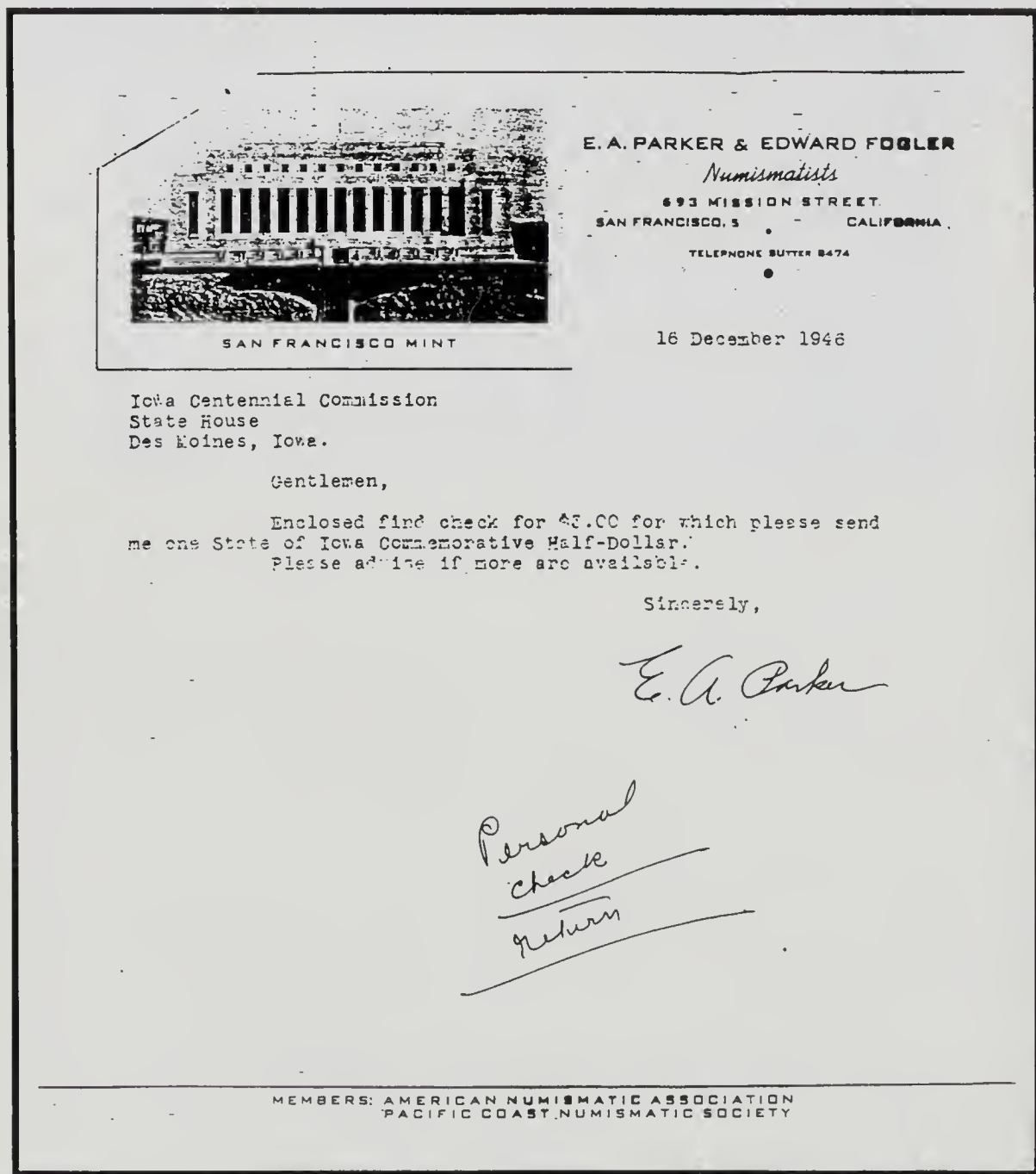


Figure 1

First, who among the coin dealers inquired about the half dollars? Thanks to an archivist and records still filed a partial listing would identify: Earl A. Parker and Edward Fogler of San Francisco, California (refer to Figure 1), Henry Gutttag of New Rochelle, New York, William Rabin of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, W. F. Fratcher of Michigan Stamp and Coin Company in Detroit, Michigan, Sol Kaplan on the stationery of the Cincinnati Numismatic Association (refer to Figure 2), and Milton G. Strauch also of San Francisco, plus A. C. Overton of Pueblo, Colorado.⁷

Much correspondence was filed, and these two figures infer most of it was pleasant letters of inquiry, although Earl Parker's order was returned unfulfilled. Note the handwritten comment, most likely signed by Edith Wasson McElroy.⁸

But, back to the complaints, the most intense and reflective of, yet unrelated to, the Lawrence brothers was a two-page single spaced typed damnation from a Herbert E.

Rowold of Kansas City, Missouri.⁹ Mr. Rowold, who listed himself as an American Numismatic Association (ANA) District Secretary wrote obtusely:

As for as my buying an Iowa commemorative - I THANK YOU - NO, very emphatically NO, I dont [sic] want one and if I never own one, it will be alright with me. I can leave an open space, just to remind me the [sic] I was not a sucker. Having been around a long time collecting coins, I am willing to wager with you that IF I buy one (Not soon) I can assure you it will be far, far less, than \$3.00, per coin, with a 100,000 issue.¹⁰

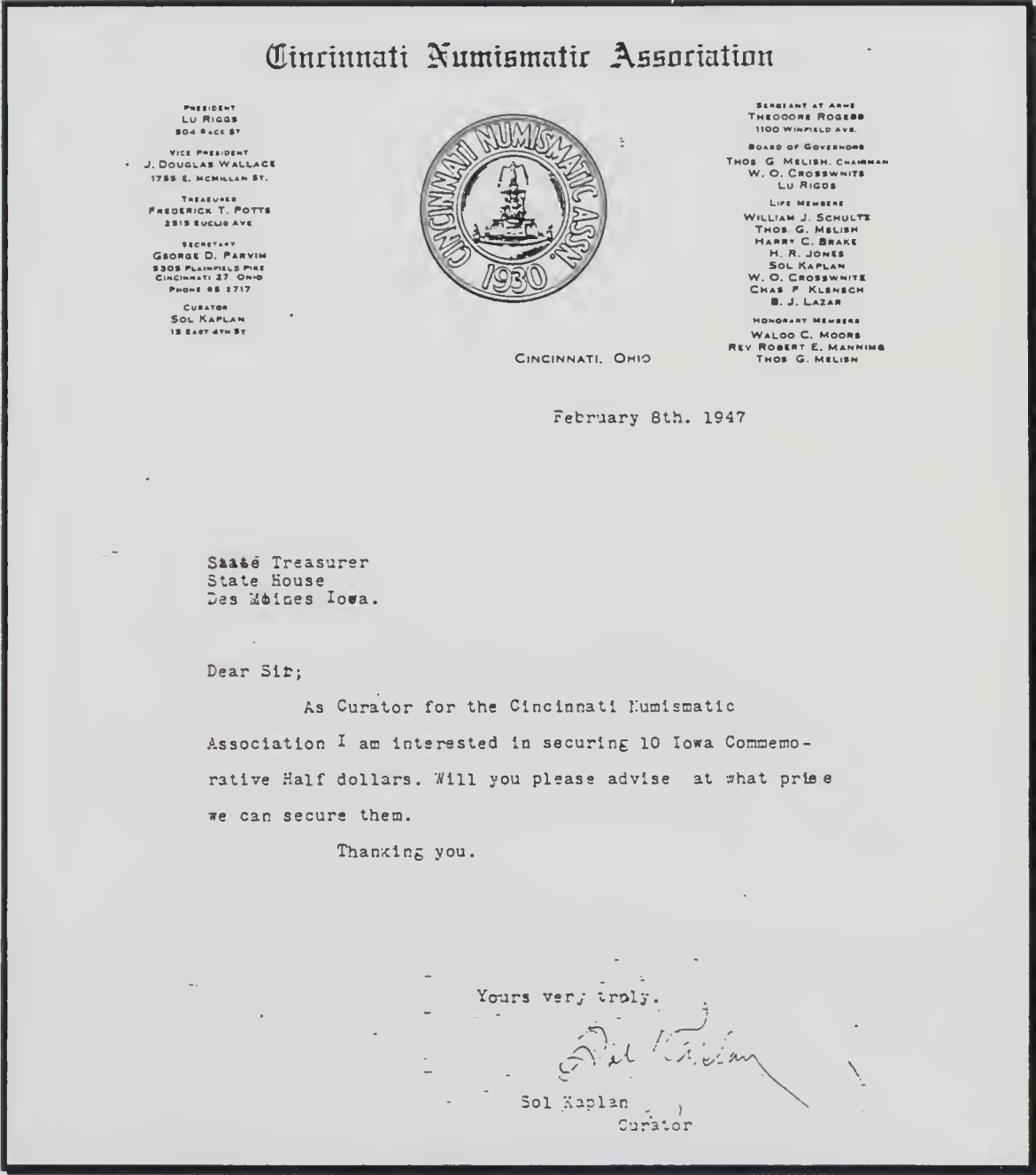


Figure 2

He goes on to refute the famous Open Letter of February 12, 1947 mailed out to coin dealers as reproduced in Figure 3 in the 17th article (*Calcoin News*, Spring, 1994):

Your letter says, QUOTE, "Because of certain propaganda which is being circulated among coin dealer, etc", let me tell you, those dealers and many collectors know what it is all about and those dealers are not

going to stick their necks out and buy coins of a 100,000 issue and buy a lot of those coins, which they have learned from experience, never will be worth very much, in many years to come.

Your letter states further (and it was an Air-Mail letter) that these coins were being rapidly exhausted. Frankly, you dont [sic] expect me to believe this when you write me, someone who has never made an inquiry to but [sic] some of your coins, by AIRMAIL, when the supply is running exhaustedly low, If your supply is as low as you are leading me to believe it is, why write me, why write to anyone, Simply sell them out and go out of business and leave your Iowa citizens to hold the sack.¹¹

Mr. Rowold claimed that "propaganda against your coin, by dealers only" was false: "call it thumbs down by collectors in general."¹² His argument was the price difference between Iowans and non-residents, meaning \$2.50 for Iowans and \$3.00 for out-of-staters. The point was moot by February, 1947 since the price was an even \$3.00 regardless. The Author is confident that Mr. Rowold was aware of this, but still remained unsatisfied.¹³

So irritated was Mr. Rowold, he ended his letter wanting it "just a bit farther than beyond the Secretary's desk...even your Governor, IF IT GETS THAT FAR??"¹⁴ No record survives as to whether Governor Robert D. Blue (1898-1989) did have the buck stop on his desk.¹⁵

Ever faithful and equally resolute, on February 25, 1947, Edith McElroy responded in an equally intense, but still courteous, two-page single spaced typed epistle. First, Mrs. McElroy explained the reason for the Open Letter to coin dealers:

The letter was sent out, not as you imply in any attempt to force sales, but in complete sincerity. To begin with, we had in our files a number of letters from dealers who do not share your sentiments and who asked us, as soon as the coin was made available in numbers larger than one or two, to advise them. Then as we stated in our letters there are certain persons who are advising against the sale of the Iowa coin, stating it will be sold for less if they will only wait. In order to reach all dealers, we sent the letter which you received. For your information, we received a large number of orders in reply from dealers who evidently do not share your optimistic opinion that coins will be offered for less.¹⁶

Secondly, she refutes the investment argument stating that "Iowans did not buy them [half dollars] as an investment but as a keepsake, and they will be passed down to children and grandchildren, as a memento. There will be no large balance held as speculation to reduce their price."¹⁷ As for the distribution and sales, the "Iowa Plan," Mrs. McElroy reiterated:

I am sorry you do not approve of our plan of distribution. It was worked out not by myself, but by the Governor, the Treasurer of State, the Executive Secretary of the Iowa Bankers' Association, the representatives of our Committee which consists of distinguished Iowa citizens throughout the state. It accomplished exactly what it was intended to do. It placed the coins in the hands of Iowa citizens who will cherish them not as cheap speculation but for sentimental reasons, and it enabled those same Iowans to contribute to our Iowa Centennial Memorial Fund which will be used to perpetuate Iowa's achievements

through the past hundred years for Iowans and for those, who like yourself, visit our state.¹⁸

She does confess to complaints, writing in her concluding paragraph that "the only criticism...received has been from a handful of dealers like yourself who evidently resent it for personal reasons or who do not clearly understand the motives behind the sale."¹⁹

The last point is important: to the Committee and its facilitators, those critics failed to understand nor accept the goal of the distribution and sales, the "Iowa Plan." In fact, the Iowa Centennial Memorial Fund became and is today the active Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation.

In a reply letter to a Larry Knight, a coin and stamp dealer from Pittsburgh, California who also complained, Mrs. McElroy again stressed the "Iowa Plan" with a candid observation in-line with the Committee's objective--maximum sales to Iowans--but with a different twist:

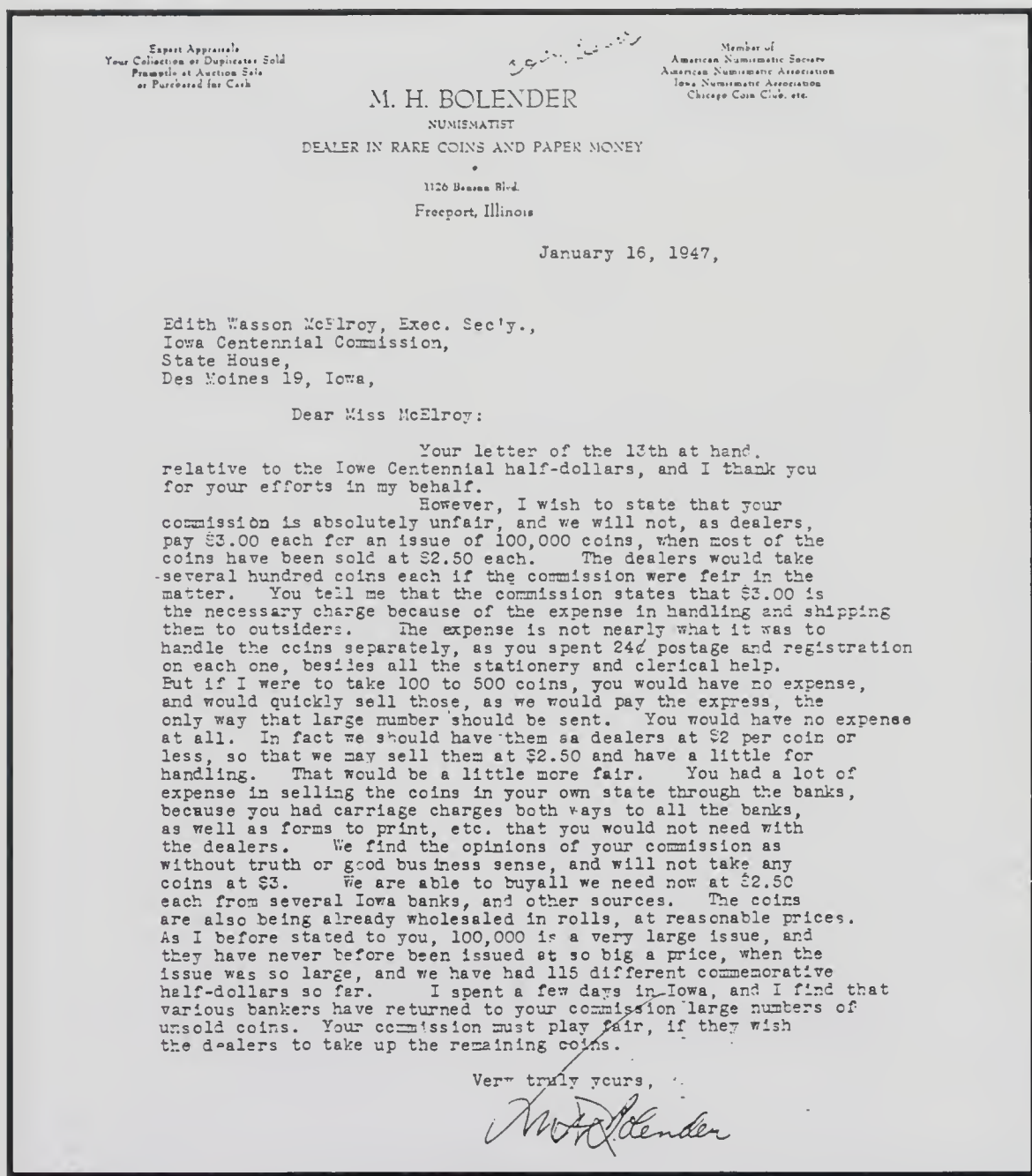


Figure 3

You will be interested to know that we have disposed of 90,000 of these coins in Iowa to Iowans. This is an unusual record and we might

add, these coins have been bought not by collectors but by Iowans as a memento of our centennial year. The majority of them will never be collector's items as most of them are being carried today as pocket pieces. This will be reflected in the future price of the coin as the actual number going to collectors and dealers is very small.²⁰

Note her closing sentence. Today, five decades later, Iowa half dollars in all high grades remain plentiful. did only the 5000 allocated initially for outside state sales beget all these choice halves? Interesting. It should be clarified that Larry Knight exchanged two letters with Mrs. McElroy, and one was three pages single space typed in length! His fundamental theme, often echoed by other coin dealers, was "all collectors in general will feel \$3.00 is too much to pay..." He goes on to educate Mrs. McElroy, "one funny little angle on the collectors of these coins is the fact that the coins are placed in Coin Albums [his capitalization] of heavy card board with holes made in them to fit the coin exactly. However only one side of the coin shows" thus "a coin collector is faced with the necessity of securing two coins at least...to properly show both sides of his coin at the same time."²¹

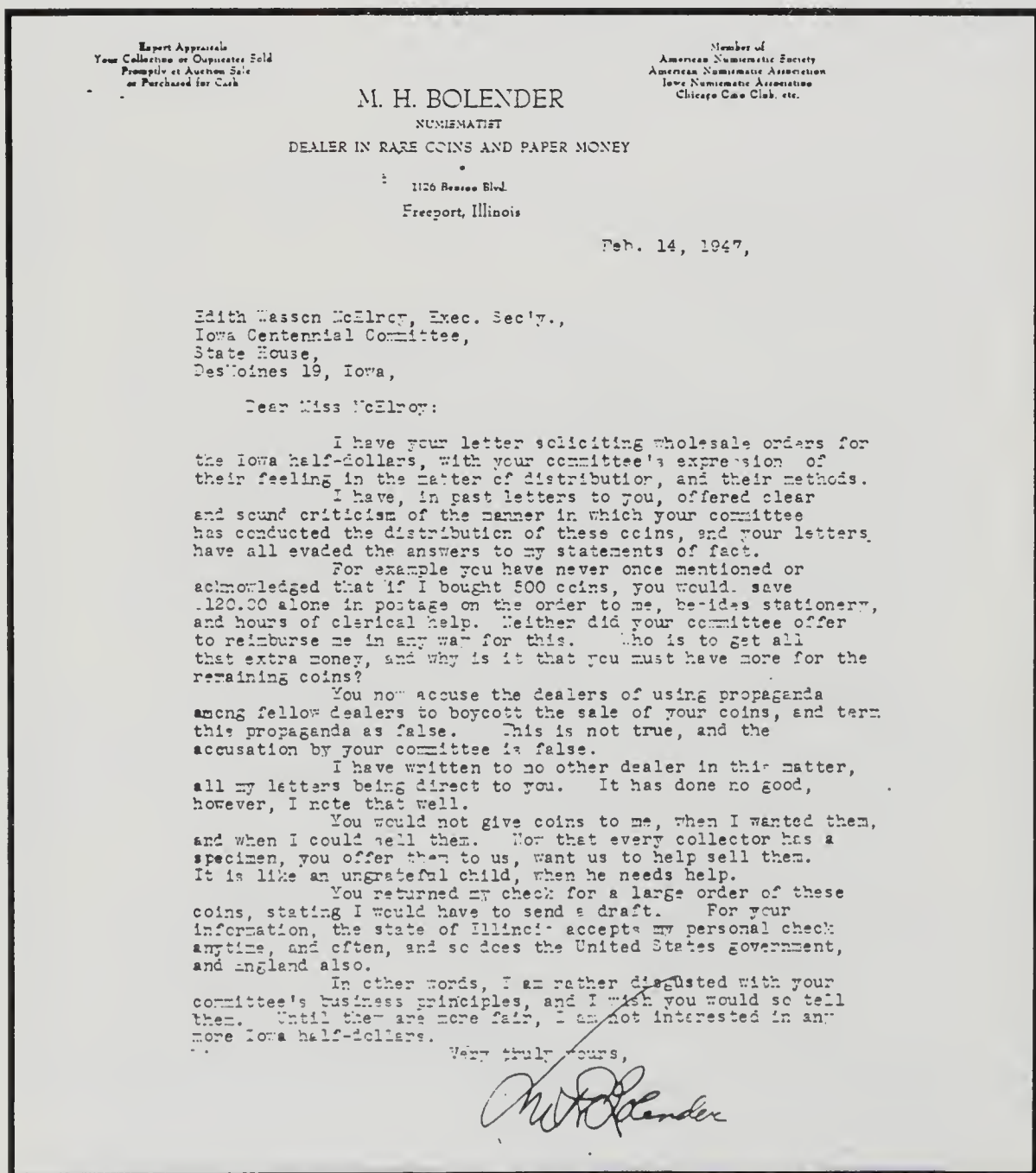


Figure 4

Another exchange almost, if not equal to, the Lawrence brothers' in scope was between M. H. (Milford Henry) Bolender of Freeport, Illinois and Edith McElroy. Over two months, January and February, 1947, they each transmitted several letters. Originals and carbon tissue copies were placed in two different folders and were not filed in chronological order, but these still illustrate "the way they gripe" as well as occupied much of Mrs. McElroy's time.²² Although Mr. Bolender kept Mrs. McElroy engaged typing, in the end, he declined: "I am not interested in any more Iowa half-dollars."²³ Mr. Bolender, like other critical coin dealers, sought some special considerations.

Mrs. McElroy answered that latter appeal in her January 24, 1947 letter with this statement: "We are not doing this however in any attempt to be unfair to dealers as you imply. We are doing it in order to be fair to the individuals who purchased these" half dollars.²⁴ Mr. Bolender, resolute as the Lawrence brothers, typed letter for letter. Figures 3 and 4 reproduce his January 16, 1947 and February 14, 1947 letters, respectively. Attention is directed to his February 14th letter which was his rebuttal to the Open Letter to coin dealers.²⁵

Well, the aim of this present article was not just to examine some of the critical commentary expressed by various, most now long gone, coin dealers, but to show that the Lawrence brothers were not alone. Now that this has been validated, the subsequent article will resume the saga of those twin brothers, whose initial inquiry was in September, 1946 with remittance ordering yet-to-be minted Iowa half dollars at \$1.00 each! Stay tuned.

--OoO--

FOOTNOTES

1. This is a supplementary article to the mini-series on the Lawrence brothers. Readers are welcomed to refer to prior articles in both the *PCNS Journal* and *Calcoin News*. The current mini-series commenced with the *Calcoin News* Summer, 1993 issue. For convenience, footnotes are limited to direct quotations and significant aspects.
2. This is quite true, as successive research and this series progresses, some of these coin dealers who "gripe" will be analyzed in much more detail than this short supplementary article.
3. This is the truth! With all that has been gleaned, the Iowa commemorative coin is without a doubt the most documented commemorative, and there is still more coming!
4. Based upon the actual records, not any conjecture.
5. Apparently, the Iowa Centennial Committee's files and records were transferred to the Governor's Office about April, 1947 and later (date unknown) to the State Historical Society.
6. The amount of "stuff" may be the basis of several new article plus revisions and addenda to the prior articles.
7. The Author arbitrarily chose these, since these names might be known to contemporary coin hobbyists. There were others.
8. Earl A. Parker's correspondence is a story in its own right, to be included in a future article. Mr. Parker was a nationally known coin dealer of the 1950's and later.
9. Who was Herbert E. Rowold? His address on his letterhead was "1307 Brush Creek Blvd., Kansas City, Missouri." Can any readers assist?
10. Herbert E. Rowold, letter of February 14, 1947 to Edith Wasson McElroy.
11. *Ibid.* Readers are welcomed to review the 17th article in *Calcoin News*, Spring, 1994.
12. *Ibid.*
13. This confusing to this Author: what may have been crucial was the lack of communication and publication of price and sales changes to Mr. Rowold's, and others', satisfaction.
14. Rowold, *loc. cit.*
15. Governor Blue delegated the chores and concerns of the commemorative half dollar to the judgment and action of Ralph Evans and Edith McElroy.
16. Edith Wasson McElroy, letter of February 25, 1947 to Herbert E. Rowold.

17. *Ibid.*
18. *Ibid.*
19. *Ibid.*
20. Edith Wasson McElroy, letter of February 5, 1947, to Larry Knight. Who was Larry Knight? Any clues?
21. Larry Knight, letter of December 15, 1946, to Mrs. Robert Pike. Mrs. Pike was a member of the Iowa Centennial Committee, and her name headed the list of Committee members on its letterhead.
22. In the days of manual typewriters and carbon-copies, Mrs. McElroy, always professional and devoted, fastidiously replied to each and every letter, without resorting to a standard form reply! Each was personally written and typed by her.
23. M. H. Bolender, letter of February 14, 1947, to Edith Wasson McElroy. His letterhead listed himself as a "Numismatist" with membership in the ANA and others. Mr. Bolender later wrote the authoritative book "The United States Early Silver Dollars 1794-1803" in 1950.
24. Edith Wasson McElroy, letter of January 24, 1947, to M. H. Bolender.
25. And to each, Mrs. McElroy rebutted. Mrs. McElroy's correspondence to coin dealers and coin hobbyists was in tone always pleasant and correct, but firm and uncompromising.

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